

# *User's Manual*

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## News Make Group (NewsMkGrp)

Version 1.0.0.3 (HP-UX 10.10 and Solaris 2.5.1)

## Overview

NewsMkGrp is a program that allows users to create newsgroups by generating “newgroup” control messages (see documentation for NS-NEWSS). The user is first prompted for the name or IP address of a computer running a news server. The user is then presented with the “name selection form” which allows the user to select a name for the newsgroup. Finally, the user is presented with a “description form” that allows the user to enter a one-line description of the newsgroup being created and a message which will be sent to the administrator of every news server that receives the control message.

## The Icon

NewsMkGrp’s icon is a newspaper at an angle. The label under the icon is “Make Group”.

## News Server Dialog Box

The first thing the user sees upon executing NewsMkGrp is a dialog box prompting the user to enter the name (or IP address) of a machine running a news server. The user enters the name and then presses enter (or clicks on “OK”). If the user selects “Cancel”, then the program is terminated. There is also a button labeled “Help”, which provides on-line help for the application.<sup>¶</sup>

## The Downloading Clock

Once the news server has been entered, a new dialog box appears. It has a clock in the center, whose hand spins as NewsMkGrp downloads the list of current newsgroups from the news server. The three buttons at the bottom of the dialog box allow the user to abort the program, stop the listing download, or access the on-line help.<sup>¶</sup> Once the list of currently available newsgroups has been downloaded, this dialog box disappears, and the form which allows the user to select a name for the new newsgroup appears.

## The Name Selection Form

The user is presented with a number of widgets in the name selection form. In the upper-left is a list box with the current newsgroup prefixes. (A prefix is the part of the newsgroup name before the first ‘.’.) Below this list is where the new newsgroup name, as the user has created it to this point, is presented. Below the newsgroup name is a list of currently existing newsgroups. The list is restricted to those newsgroups whose name begins the same as the new newsgroup name (this is explained below). At the top-middle of the form are two toggle-buttons: one labeled “local” and the other “limited”. To the right of the toggles is a text entry widget. This widget has the keyboard focus; this is where the user types in the new newsgroup name. Finally, there is a menu bar along the top of the form with the entries “File” and “Edit”, and two buttons at the bottom of the form labeled “New Name Selected” and “Y”.

### *How the Name is Composed*

A newsgroup name (as created by NewsMkGrp) is comprised of a prefix, optionally “local” and/or “limited”, and then the rest of the newsgroup name. The newsgroup’s prefix defines which hierarchy the newsgroup belongs to. The prefixes available for use in creating the new name are listed in the prefix widget in the upper-left. The new newsgroup name, as listed in the middle-left of the form, will always begin with the selected prefix. If the “local” toggle button is selected (or if the user makes “.local.” part of the newsgroup’s name), then the prefix is followed by “.local.”. Likewise, if the “limited” checkbox is selected, then “.limited.” follows the prefix (or follows “.local”, if that is also selected).

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<sup>¶</sup> This feature is not yet implemented as of version 1.0.0.3 of NewsMkGrp.

As the user types the rest of the newsgroup name in the text entry widget, the name being created (as listed in the middle-left of the screen) is updated. Every time a '.' is pressed, the list of current newsgroups which are similar to the name being created is culled.

When the new newsgroup name is ready, the user can either press <ENTER>, or choose "Done" from the "File" menu, or press the "New Name Selected" button at the bottom of the form. Any of these will prompt the user for confirmation of the newsgroup name and, if confirmation is given, move the user on to the description form.

### ***How the User Chooses a Name***

The user should choose a name for the new newsgroup that makes sense. In other words, the name should be chosen with two types of users in mind. The first user knows what subject matter they wish to read about, but do not know the name of the newsgroup. This type of reader must be able to deduce the newsgroup's name, based upon the current CONOPS for naming newsgroups and the subject matter. The second type of reader is browsing the news offerings, and must be able to determine from the name of the newsgroup the nature of the subject matter discussed in the newsgroup.

### ***The Menu***

The menu bar has two selections. Under "File", there are two options. "Done" indicates that the name has been selected, and the user wishes to move on to the description form. "Exit" indicates that the user wishes to abort the program. Under "Edit" is "Refresh" (used if the NewsMkGrp display becomes somehow corrupted) and "Clear" (used to remove all data which have been entered).

### **The Description Form**

Once the user has selected a name for the newsgroup, he or she must enter a one-line description of the newsgroup and a message. The one-line description is just that; one line of text which describes the prospective newsgroup's intent or content. The message will be transmitted to the news administrator of every machine that receives the request to create the newsgroup. This message is of particular importance to those new administrators who have configured their news server to *not* create new newsgroups automatically. For those news servers, the control message generated by the user will, when it reaches that news server, *not* create a new newsgroup, but rather send an email message to the administrator asking that he/she create the newsgroup. For those situations, a clear and concise message indicating why the newsgroup should or must be created will help ensure a prompt response from the administrator.

This form has menu entries under "File" that allow the user to complete or abort the program. Under "Edit", the user can clear any entries made in the text entry widgets or return to the previous form and re-select a newsgroup name. There is also a button at the bottom of the form labeled "Create Newsgroup" that the user can press to indicate that the description and message are complete.

Whichever mechanism is used to indicate completion, the user is then prompted to confirm that the information associated with the newsgroup is correct and that the user genuinely wishes for the newsgroup to be created. If the user confirms, then the control message is generated and transmitted to the news server.